

take from members of the council. Congress doesn't feel it's competent to do that, so what Congress does is to essentially pass the budget as it is and use the fact that the budget is here for its own purposes and against the interests of the residents of the District of Columbia. It uses the local D.C. budget to affix amendments—known as riders—to keep the District from doing what the District wants to do with its own local funds. I'm not here talking about what the District wants to do with Federal funds; it's what the District wants to do with its own local funds.

And in order to make sure that the District gets the point, the District gets shut down if the Federal Government decides to shut down. The very threat of a shutdown has repercussions for the District's finances, for those who hold its bonds, for those who hold its contracts. No city can afford that, and certainly not the District of Columbia.

As a result, this situation has not only driven our own people to civil disobedience, it has driven them to follow the example of Mahatma Gandhi who, when things got bad enough, if you saw the movie "Gandhi," would simply stop eating. People would beg him to eat, and he would stop eating. And people would say, You must eat; you're more valuable if you're alive, and he would not eat because he was trying to shame the British Government into bringing democracy to India. And he succeeded and has been, of course, the great icon of civil disobedience of various kinds.

But who would expect that public officials would have to engage in civil disobedience here? Who would ever think that a hunger strike would be necessary in the United States of America? Not for some radical principle, but for the first principle, the principle upon which this country was founded: If it's our money, we get to decide what to do with our money, King George—yes, and King Congress.

May I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. NORTON. There is an answer to this, and I thank Mr. ISSA for proposing a budget autonomy bill himself that mirrors my own budget autonomy bill—with some differences to be sure, in deference to the Congress. But this is a chairman of a committee who listened to the District, listened to witnesses, understood the harm imposed on the District—not only the shutdown, not only, of course, the amendments, but he was particularly impressed by the harm it does to the finances of a city that has done the right thing by its own finances.

As we contemplate what will happen in the next few hours, we ought to find a way to do two things if we do nothing else: Make sure that the District budget passes as the District would have it—not as any Member of this House would have it—and that the abortion

amendment is gone; and, finally, that under no circumstances, whatever happens to the Federal Government, under no circumstances should the government of a local jurisdiction, your Nation's capital, be shut down.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of the Special Order by Mr. TERRY of Nebraska, as well as on the subject of the Special Order by Ms. NORTON of the District of Columbia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 10 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2055, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

##### CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 112-331)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2055), making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012".

##### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:  
Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.  
Sec. 3. References.  
Sec. 4. Statement of appropriations.  
Sec. 5. Availability of funds.

#### DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Title I—Military Personnel  
Title II—Operation and Maintenance  
Title III—Procurement  
Title IV—Research, Development, Test and Evaluation  
Title V—Revolving and Management Funds  
Title VI—Other Department of Defense Programs  
Title VII—Related agencies  
Title VIII—General provisions  
Title IX—Overseas contingency operations  
DIVISION B—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Title I—Corps of Engineers—Civil  
Title II—Department of the Interior  
Title III—Department of Energy  
Title IV—Independent agencies  
Title V—General provisions  
DIVISION C—FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Title I—Department of the Treasury  
Title II—Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated to the President  
Title III—The Judiciary  
Title IV—District of Columbia  
Title V—Independent agencies  
Title VI—General provisions—This Act  
Title VII—General provisions—Government-wide  
Title VIII—General provisions—District of Columbia

#### DIVISION D—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Title I—Departmental management and operations  
Title II—Security, enforcement, and investigations  
Title III—Protection, preparedness, response, and recovery  
Title IV—Research and development, training, and services  
Title V—General provisions

#### DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Title I—Department of the Interior  
Title II—Environmental Protection Agency  
Title III—Related agencies  
Title IV—General provisions

#### DIVISION F—DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Title I—Department of Labor  
Title II—Department of Health and Human Services  
Title III—Department of Education  
Title IV—Related agencies  
Title V—General provisions

#### DIVISION G—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Title I—Legislative branch  
Title II—General provisions  
DIVISION H—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Title I—Department of Defense  
Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs  
Title III—Related agencies  
Title IV—Overseas contingency operations  
Title V—General provisions

#### DIVISION I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Title I—Department of State and related agency